

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RABID RACCOON FOUND IN MASSIE BRANCH ROAD AREA OF SKIPPERS, VIRGINIA

(PETERSBURG, Va.) – The Crater Health District has received confirmation that a raccoon collected August 7, 2012 from the Massie Branch Road area in Skippers tested positive for rabies infection.

The Crater Health District asks any resident in this area who may have been exposed or has pets that may have been exposed to any wild animal to immediately notify the Greenville/Emporia County Health Department at 434-348-4235, or the Greenville County Animal Control Office at 434-348-4200.

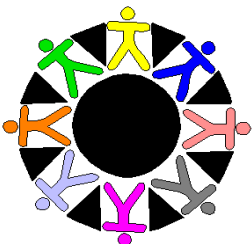
According to Tim Jones Environmental Health Manager of the Crater Health District, “Rabies is a fatal disease. It can be prevented with vaccination, but once symptoms begin, it cannot be cured.” To report any other suspicious animal please contact the Greenville County Animal Control Office at 434-348-4200.

The Health District strongly advises that people take the following steps to prevent families and pets from being exposed to rabies:

- Vaccinate all cats, dogs and ferrets against rabies and keep them up to date.
- Avoid contact with wild animals or stray cats and dogs.
- Do not feed wild animals or stray cats and dogs.
- Report stray animals to your local animal control agency.
- Eliminate outdoor food sources around the home.
- Keep pets confined to your property or walk them on a leash.

For more information concerning rabies, visit the Virginia Department of Health’s Rabies Control and Prevention web site at www.vdh.virginia.gov/epi/rabies, or call the Crater Health District at 804-863-1652.

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Crater Health District
Helping Build Healthy Communities
804.863.1652